

XXXVII.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

(Continued from p. 214.)

41. *Bennett on the Habits of Leipoa.*

[On the Habits of the Mallee Hen, *Leipoa ocellata*. By K. H. Bennett, Esq. Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. W. viii. p. 193.]

Mr. Bennett gives some interesting notes on the nesting-habits of this "mound-builder," as observed in the Mallee Scrubs of New South Wales. One of the mounds measured was 37 feet in circumference, and the writer had seen some much larger.

42. *Blakiston's amended List of the Birds of Japan.*

[Amended List of the Birds of Japan, according to Geographical Distribution; with notes concerning Additions and Corrections since January 1882. By T. W. Blakiston. (Printed for private circulation.) 8vo. London: 1884.]

For the use of his brother ornithologists in Japan, Capt. Blakiston has prepared an amended list of the birds of that country, to which are added notes on the corrections and additions made since the issue of the previous edition of the catalogue (*cf.* Ibis, 1882, p. 599).

The number of species now recognized as Japanese is about 350. These are divided into the following categories:—

A. Species common to Yezo and the main islands of Japan	217
B. Migrants hitherto only obtained in Yezo or the Kuriles, but probably also to be met with in the main islands	43
C. Species not found in Yezo or the Kuriles	75
D. Non-migrants, but found South of Yezo	8
E. Species only found in the Kuriles	8

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In his preface Capt. Blakiston gives the following list of five species found in Yezo which have distinct representatives in the main islands:—

Yezo Species.

Picus minor.
Dryocopus martius.
Gecinns canus.
Garrulus brandti.
Acredula caudata.

Representatives in Main Islands of Japan.

Picus kisuki.
Dryocopus richardsi.
Gecinns ayokera.
Garrulus japonicus.
Acredula trivirgata.

It will thus be evident that, in accordance with what Capt. Blakiston has shown in a previous memoir (*cf.* 'Ibis,' 1883, p. 562), Yezo belongs to the fauna of Siberia, and has species more akin to those of Northern Europe, while the main islands of Japan appertain rather to the same area of distribution as the adjacent portion of China. Such forms as *Tchitrea princeps*, *Pericrocotus cinereus*, and *Megalurus pryeri* are manifestly southern elements in the Japanese avifauna, and are never found in Yezo.

43. *Blasius's Ornithological Contributions.*

[Ornithologische Mittheilungen. Von R. Blasius. Sitzungsab. d. Verein f. Naturwiss. zu Braunschweig, Dec. 3, 1883.]

Dr. R. Blasius's notes refer to *Serinus hortulanus*, *Ciconia nigra*, and *Picus major*.

44. *Cooke and Widmann on Bird-migration in the Mississippi Valley.*

[Bird-Migration in the Mississippi Valley. By W. W. Cooke and Otto Widmann. Read before the Ridgway Ornithological Club, Chicago, Illinois, U. S. A., 1883.]

This paper, reprinted from the 'American Field,' contains an account of the field-notes on the arrivals and departures of the migrant species made by Mr. Widmann at St. Louis, on the Mississippi, and by Mr. Cooke at Jefferson, Wis., during the spring of 1883. The combined notes on each species are added afterwards in systematic order.

45. *Cory on the Birds of San Domingo.*

[The Birds of Haiti and San Domingo. By Charles B. Cory, F.L.S. Estes and Lauriat, Boston, 1884. Part I., 5 pp., 6 plates, quarto.]

We have received with great pleasure the first number of

Mr. Cory's new work on the birds of San Domingo. To the exploration of this interesting but much neglected island Mr. Cory has, as we all know, devoted his attention for several years, and now gives us the results of his investigations. The present number contains his account of the Oscinine Passeres down to the commencement of the Tanageridæ, namely, 2 Turdidæ, 15 Sylvicolidæ, 1 Cœrebidæ, 2 Hirundinidæ, 1 Virconidæ, 2 Ampelidæ, and 2 Tanagers. Of these species nine or ten are forms peculiar to the island, the rest are mainly North-American visitors in the winter. The number of generic forms restricted to San Domingo is, as is well known, remarkable. We already have in that island *Ligia*, *Dulus*, and *Phœnicophilus*, and there are several others to follow.

The species figured in the present number are *Mimocichla ardesiaca*, with its nest and eggs, *Ligia palustris*, *Hirundo sclateri*, *Myiadestes montanus*, and *Spindalis unicolor*.

Mr. Cory will forgive us for reminding him that in these days every local fauna should have a map attached to it, with the special localities given in the text plainly marked. Such an addition greatly enhances its scientific value, not to mention its convenience.

46. *Crawford's 'Across the Pampas.'*

[Across the Pampas and the Andes. By Robert Crawford. London: Longmans, 1884.]

This is a book of travels, containing an interesting account of Mr. Crawford's adventures while surveying a route for the proposed Transandine Railway from Buenos Ayres to the Pacific. It contains many allusions to birds, particularly to those that served to vary the diet of the travellers. The "Blackbird" of Mendoza (p. 198) is, of course, *Turdus fuscater*, d'Orb. et Lafr., and the following passage, no doubt, relates to the singular Andean Duck, *Merganetta armata*:—

"Our route lay through the lovely valley of the Teno. In its rushing waters we saw in several places birds with the most wonderful power of swimming I had ever observed in any class of divers. From time to time they darted from the

rocks into the boiling current, and issued from it on the opposite side of the stream with as much apparent ease as if their course had been through a pool of stagnant water. The facility with which, upon emerging from the river, they scrambled up the smooth-worn surface of the rounded stones was also marvellous. The natives told us they accomplished this by the aid of hooks with which their wings are provided, somewhat similar, I suppose, to the spurs on the wings of the Horned Plover and the Crested Screamer."

47. Crowley's 'Catalogue of Birds' Eggs.'

[Catalogue of Birds' Eggs in the Collection of Philip Crowley. (Privately printed.) Oct. 1883.]

Mr. Crowley's catalogue contains merely the names of the species arranged according to Gray's 'Hand-list.' His series is of considerable extent and includes, we believe, Canon Tristram's collection.

48. Fischer and Reichenow on new Birds from Masai-land.

[Neue Vogelarten aus dem Massailand (Inneres Ostafrika) entdeckt von Dr. G. A. Fischer während der im Auftrage der Geographischen Gesellschaft in Hamburg unternommenen Reise in das Innere der äquatorialen Ostafrikas, beschrieben von Dr. G. A. Fischer und Dr. Ant. Reichenow. Journ. f. Orn., Jan. 1884.]

This paper, an advance-copy of which has been kindly lent to us by Mr. Sharpe, contains short descriptions of the novelties obtained by Dr. Fischer during his recently accomplished excursion round the skirts of Kilima-ndjaro into the Masai country, to which we have already alluded (Ibis, 1883, p. 583, and 1884, p. 124). Twenty species are characterized as new, namely, *Corythaix hartlaubi* (a remarkable species, with the style of colour of *Gallirex porphyreolophus*), *Cotile rufigula*, *Dioptrornis* (gen. nov. ex fam. Muscicapidarum) *fischeri*, *Alseonax murina*, *Chloropeta massaica*, *Notauges fischeri*, *Euplectes friederichseni*, *Nigrita cabanisi*, *Passer rufocinctus*, *Coraphites leucopareia*, *Megalophonon massaicus*, *Zosterops eurycricotus*, *Drepanorhynchus reichenowii* (gen. et

sp. nov. ex fam. Nectariniidarum), *Cinnyris falkensteini*, *Parus fringillinus*, *Burnesia melanocephala*, *Calamonastes fischeri*, *Saxicola schalowi*, *Tarsiger orientalis*, and *Pseudocossyphus rufus* (gen. et sp. nov. ex subfam. Turdinarum).

49. *Gadow on the Cinnyrimorphæ.*

[Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum. Volume IX. Cinnyrimorphæ: containing the Families Nectariniidæ and Meliphagidæ (Sunbirds and Honey-eaters). By Hans Gadow, M.A., Ph.D. London: 1884.]

The ninth volume of the 'Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum' is devoted to the two great Old-World families Nectariniidæ and Meliphagidæ, wherein are comprehended 355 species. Of these 291 are represented in the national collection by 2450 specimens. As in the case of the eighth volume, the author is Dr. Hans Gadow, now Strickland Curator in the University of Cambridge.

As regards the Nectariniidæ, Dr. Gadow's task has not been a difficult one, Capt. Shelley's excellent illustrated monograph of this beautiful group having been only recently finished. We think, in fact, that Dr. Gadow would have done better if he had followed Captain Shelley's lead even more closely than he has done. His alterations of the last-named author's well-considered work are, in some cases, by no means emendations. Besides, where it comes to be little more than a matter of individual opinion, it is inconvenient to others to diverge unnecessarily from the arrangement adopted by the standard authority on the subject.

In placing the *Zosteropes* among the Meliphagidæ, Dr. Gadow, we suppose, acts merely in obedience to higher authority. He says, truly enough, that "their degree of relationship to the Honey-eaters is doubtful." But, omitting the *Zosteropes*, which have been treated by Mr. Sharpe, it cannot be said that Dr. Gadow has been successful in the general grouping of this family, as any one who refers to the so-called key (p. 127) must admit. The two genera *Melithreptus* and *Plectorhynchus* are obviously Meliphagine, and it passes our comprehension to understand upon what

grounds they are referred to the Zosteropinae. Nor can we approve of the insertion of *Promerops* among the Meliphaginae.

The new species in the present volume appear to be *Myzomela guentheri*, from New Britain, described by Dr. Gadow; and *Zosterops crissalis* (New Guinea), *Z. gallio* (Java), and *Z. fallax* (Java and Sumatra), by Mr. Sharpe. The two last-named had been previously described under unusable names. The species figured are *Arachnothera polioptera*, *A. iliolophus*, *Philemon cockerelli*, *Myzomela guentheri*, *Ptilotis marmorata*, *P. megalorhynchus*, *P. polygramma*, *P. virescens*, and *P. limbata*.

50. Goss on the Birds of Kansas.

[A Catalogue of the Birds of Kansas. By N. S. Goss. Topeka, Kansas: 1883.]

Kansas occupies a large area in the centre of the North-American continent, and gradually sloping from the low bottoms and timber-lands on the Mississippi side up to the high treeless plains of the interior, affords a diversity of soil and variation of climate that renders its bird-life rich and varied. Col. Goss, fortified by observations in the field and the knowledge thereby gathered during twenty-six years' residence, is well qualified to carry out the request of the Executive Council of the State that he should prepare a catalogue of its Birds. This catalogue, arranged according to Mr. Ridgway's system and nomenclature, contains 320 species, of which 161 are known to breed in the State. The names of 29 other species which are likely to occur in Kansas are given in an appendix.

51. Gould's 'Birds of New Guinea.'

[The Birds of New Guinea and the adjacent Papuan Islands, including any new Species that may be discovered in Australia. By [the late] John Gould, F.R.S. &c. Part XVI. Folio. London: 1884.]

The sixteenth part of this work contains illustrations of the following species:—

<i>Eclectus riedeli</i> .	<i>Piezorhynchus vidua</i> .
<i>Megalurus albolimbatus</i> .	— <i>squamulatus</i> .
<i>Gerygone dorsalis</i> .	<i>Heteranax mundus</i> .
<i>Rhipidura opistherythra</i> .	<i>Artamides unimodus</i> .
<i>Pachycephalopsis fortis</i> .	<i>Oriolus decipiens</i> .
<i>Pœcilodryas bimaculata</i> .	<i>Philemon plumigenis</i> .
<i>Piezorhynchus castus</i> .	

Many of the species figured are, it will be observed, from specimens collected during Mr. H. O. Forbes's recent expedition to the Tenimber Islands.

Mr. Sharpe thinks it possible that the name *Eclectus riedeli* "will be found to have been superseded by *Eclectus westermanni* of Bonaparte." But we may point out that the type of *Psittacodis westermanni*, Bp., is in the Leyden Museum, and that it is not certain that the specimen in the British Museum to which Mr. Sharpe refers has been correctly attributed to *Eclectus westermanni*. Bonaparte (P. Z. S. 1850, p. 26) expressly characterizes the latter as "*iliis concoloribus*."

A new generic name (*Heteranax*) is proposed for *Monarcha mundus*, Selater.

52. Hartlaub on new African Birds.

[Diagnosen einiger neuer Vögel aus dem östlichäquatorialen Africa. Von Dr. G. Hartlaub. Journ. f. Orn., Oct. 1883.]

Four new species, discovered by Dr. Emin Bey in Eastern Equatorial Africa, are shortly diagnosed as *Ptyrticus turdinus*, *Crateropus tenebrosus*, *Xenocichla orientalis*, and *Astrilda nonnula*. *Ptyrticus* is a new genus (of what family?).

53. Holmberg on the Birds of the Sierra del Tandil.

[Resultados científicos, especialmente zoológicos y botánicos, de los tres viajes llevados á cabo por el Dr. Holmberg, en 1881, 1882, y 1883 á la Sierra del Tandil. Actas de la Academia Nacional de Ciencias en Córdoba. Tomo V. Entrega primera. Buenos Ayres: 1884.]

Dr. Holmberg's three scientific expeditions into the Sierra of Tandil, in the Argentine Republic, in 1881 and the two following years, prove that this district is not rich in birds.

Examples of only about sixty species were obtained—all of them well-known inhabitants of the States of the Rio de la Plata.

54. *Huet on Birds in the Jardin des Plantes.*

[Note sur les naissances, dons et acquisitions de la ménagerie du muséum d'histoire naturelle, pendant les mois de mai, juin, juillet et août 1883. Par M. Huet. Bull. Soc. d'Acclimatation, Oct. 1883.]

M. Huet gives an account of the additions to the birds in the living collection at the Jardin des Plantes in the summer of 1883, and in particular records the hatching of four young Brush-Turkeys (*Talegalla lathamii*) after a period of thirty days' "incubation" in their mound, and gives some interesting particulars of the young birds.

55. *Johnston's 'River Congo.'*

[The River Congo, from its mouth to Bólóbó, with a general Description of the Natural History and Anthropology of its Western Basin. 8vo. London: 1883.]

Mr. Johnston would not pretend to claim for his volume a comparison with Bates's 'Amazons' or Wallace's 'Indian Archipelago,' but every naturalist will read with pleasure the lively narrative of his journey up the Congo, from its mouth to Bólóbó. It is much to be regretted that Mr. Johnston had no collector with him, and that the specimens which he was actually able to bring home were few and imperfectly preserved. It has thus happened that in some cases the scientific names given in the present volume from memory or observation may not be strictly accurate. But we have a good general chapter on the bird-life of the Congo, concluding with a systematic list of species, in which there seem to be but few errors. There are likewise many bird-notes interspersed in the narrative, and woodcuts of various species. The Grey Parrot, we learn, is "found in incredible quantities on Stanley Pool," a Pratincole is common on the Congo, being found in "flocks of over a thousand at a time," and the Egyptian Goose, *Gypohierax*, Darters, and *Scopus um-*

bretta are likewise abundant. The Giant Plantain-eater (*Turacus giganteus*) was met with near Msuata; and Mr. Stanley says he has seen the *Baleniceps* on the upper river, and "describes it accurately."

Mr. Johnston is the first explorer of the Congo who has made any effort to investigate its natural products, which seem to have been rather ignored by the emissaries of the International Association. We trust, however, that before long some systematic attempts will be made to render its rich fauna and flora better known to the world of science.

56. *Meyer on a Grouse from Saxony.*

[Eine in Sachsen erlegte Rackelhenne. Von A. B. Meyer. Mitth. d. orn. Ver. in Wien, 1884.]

Dr. A. B. Meyer writes of a female specimen of *Tetrao medius* (*Tetrao urogallus* × *T. tetrix*), obtained near Dresden.

57. 'Ornithologist and Oologist.'

[Ornithologist and Oologist. Vol. IX. No. 1. Pawtucket, R. I., January 1884.]

This number commences a new series of this popular American bird-periodical, which now enters upon its ninth volume.

58. *Radde and Pelzeln on Birds from the Caucasus.*

[Ueber eine Sendung von Vögeln aus dem Kaukasus. Vom Staatsrath Dr. E. Radde nebst einem Vorworte und Bemerkungen von A. von Pelzeln. Mittheilungen des ornithologischen Vereines in Wien, 1884, No. 1.]

Herr v. Pelzeln contributes some good critical notes to his list of a collection of birds from the Caucasus which Dr. Radde has lately sent through Crown-Prince Rudolf to the Vienna Museum. He makes *Ruticilla erythroprocta*, Gould = *R. ochrura* (Gm.). Cf. Schalow, J. f. O. 1880, p. 270.

59. *Report of the German Committee on the Migration of Birds.*

[VII. Jahresbericht (1882) des Ausschusses für Beobachtungsstationen der Vögel Deutschlands. J. f. O. 1884, p. 1.]

This interesting annual Report on the arrivals, dates of nesting, and departures of birds in Germany treats of 204 species. As usual, the facts are presented in a clear and concise manner.

60. *Report of the Austro-Hungarian Committee on the Migration of Birds.*

[I. Jahresbericht (1882) des Comités für ornithologische Beobachtungsstationen in Oesterreich und Ungarn. Royal 8vo. Wien: 1883.]

Observations or reports on migration are now the fashion, and in emulation of the efforts of the Northern Germans and ourselves, the Austro-Hungarians have entered the field with a strong committee under the patronage of the Crown-Prince Rudolf, and presided over by the Ritter von Tschusi zu Schmidhoffen. In 200 pages we have valuable observations upon the migration and distribution of 347 species; and of a surety the next writer on the Birds of Europe will have plenty of material, if only his lifetime and that of his assistants suffice for the digestion thereof.

61. *Schalow's Catalogue of the Seventh Exhibition of the Ægintha.*

[Catalog zur siebenten Ausstellung des deutschen Vereins für Vogelzucht und Acclimatisation (Ægintha) in Berlin vom 8. bis 12. Februar 1884 in den Räumen des Hauses Friedrich-Strasse 178, 1. Etage. 8vo. Berlin: 1884.]

Herr H. Schalow has kindly forwarded to us a copy of the catalogue of the seventh exhibition of the Ægintha, or German Union for Bird-breeding and Acclimatation, which took place in Berlin in February last. A good series of Parrots and other foreign birds, as well as of the more usually kept native families, appears to have been brought together.

62. *Selys-Longchamps on the Birds of Heligoland.*

[Excursion à l'Île d'Heligoland en Septembre 1879. Par M. Edm. de Selys-Longchamps. Bull. Soc. Zool. France, 1882, p. 250.]

An interesting account of Mr. Gätke's famed collection.

63. *Sharpe on Strix oustaleti.*

[A Note on *Strix oustaleti*, Hartlaub. By R. Bowdler Sharpe. P. Z. S. 1882, p. 335.]

Mr. Sharpe shows that the so-called *Strix oustaleti* from Viti Levu is based upon a local form of the widely spread Grass-Owl (*Strix candida*).

64. *Sharpe on the correct Name of the Shámá.*

[On the correct Generic and Specific Name of the Indian Shámá. By R. Bowdler Sharpe. Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist., July 1882.]

Mr. Sharpe gives good reasons for his conclusion that the best name for the Indian Shámá is *Cittocincla tricolor* (Vieill.). But, to be quite correct, the generic name should be written "*Cittocichla*," "cichla" (not "cincla") being the proper Latinized form of κίχλη.

65. *Stejneger on the Birds of Westland.*

[Andet Bidrag til Vestlandets ornithologiske Fauna. Af Leonard Stejneger. Nyt Magazin for Naturv. Christiania, 1882.]

Mr. Stejneger's second contribution to the ornithological fauna of Westland (a copy of which has only lately reached us, though it appears to have been published in 1882) contains notes on examples of *Motacilla melanope*, *Pyrrhula europæa*, *Cygnus bewickii*, and "*Urinator*" (i. e. *Colymbus adamsi*), which have lately occurred in that part of Norway, and on the synonymy of the species. Mr. Stejneger vindicates the claim of the last-named species to be recognized as distinct from *Urinator immer*! (i. e. *Colymbus glacialis*).

66. *Stejneger on new Birds from Kamtschatka and the Commander Islands.*

[Diagnoses of new Species of Birds from Kamtschatka and the Commander Islands. By Leonard Stejneger. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, ii. 1882-84. Extras printed April 10th, 1884.]

Mr. Stejneger publishes, in "extras" from the 'Pro-

ceedings of the Biological Society of Washington,' diagnoses of five more "new species" of birds discovered during his recent expedition to Kamtschatka and the Commander Islands. These are entitled *Pica camtschatica*, *Corvus grebnitskii*, *Alauda blakistoni*, *Dendrocopus immaculatus*, and *Lagopus ridgwayi*. We never like to condemn species before seeing specimens of them; but, judging from the diagnoses and from what we know of the variations of such forms as *Pica caudata* and *Corvus corax*, we should be inclined to doubt whether some of these supposed species would be generally accepted.

67. *Swinburne's List of the Birds inhabiting the Islands of Sula Sgeir.*

[Notes on the Islands of Sula Sgeir, or North Barra and North Rona, with a List of the Birds inhabiting them. By John Swinburne. Proc. R. Physical Soc. Edinb. viii. p. 51.]

The writer gives an interesting epitome of the results of the visits of his predecessors (from 1594 to the present date) to these remote islands, the latter of which has been uninhabited since 1844, except during a few days at the annual shearing of the sheep which are pastured there. The principal interest of North Rona consists in the fact that the Fork-tailed or Leach's Petrel (*Thalassidroma leucorhoa*) breeds there in considerable numbers. Eighteen species of birds were noted altogether.

68. *Vieillot's 'Analyse' (reprint).*

[Vieillot's *Analyse d'une nouvelle Ornithologie Élémentaire*. Edited by Howard Saunders, F.L.S., F.Z.S. London: 1883.]

This necessary work to all ornithologists has been reprinted by the Willughby Society, and issued to subscribers for 1883. Saunders, who has edited the reprint, gives in his preface a short account of Vieillot's life and labours.

69. *Vorderman's 'Birds of Batavia.'*

[Bataviasche Vogels door A. G. Vorderman. Part V. Overgedrukt uit het Natuurk. Tijds. Nederl. Indië, Deel xliii. Atl. 3.]

Mr. Vorderman continues his notes on the birds of the vicinity of Batavia (*cf.* *Ibis*, 1884, p. 111).

70. *Wagler's Six Ornithological Memoirs* (reprint).

[Wagler's Six Ornithological Memoirs from the 'Isis.' Edited by P. L. Sclater, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S. London: 1884.]

Wagler's six memoirs are certainly the most important ornithological papers of the 'Isis;' and the Willughby Society has done a good work in reprinting them. If Boie's memoirs were treated in the same way, as we trust will be the case, the long series of this old German journal would cease to be an absolutely necessary component of the ornithologist's library.

XXXVIII.—*Letters, Announcements, &c.*

We have received the following letters addressed to the Editors of 'The Ibis:—

Northrepps,
April 18, 1884.

SIRS,—In the last number of 'The Ibis' (*suprà*, p. 207) reference is made to Dr. Dybowski's valuable paper on the Birds of Kamtschatka, published in the Bull. Soc. Zool. de France, 1883, p. 351. In this paper, and also in one by Mr. Taczanowski at p. 329 of the same volume, *Astur atricapillus* is included as a species inhabiting Kamtschatka, the only authority for so regarding it being, as far as I am aware, a description of a young female Goshawk, referred by Mr. Taczanowski to this species, which is given at p. 331 of his paper just mentioned.

So far as my experience goes, it is not possible to distinguish with any certainty *Astur atricapillus* in the first year's plumage from *A. palumbarius* at a similar age; and I am